

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

S E C R E T STATE 222127

FOLLOWING BEIRUT 12918 SENT ACTION STATE INFO ALGIERS AMMAN
JIDDA KUWAIT MOSCOW RABAT TEL AVIV TUNIS USUN BAGHDAD NOV 8
RPT TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 12918

DEPT ALSO PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ARAB SUMMIT

REF: ALGIERS 2325

1. ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR YAZID TOLD EMBOFF NOV 7 THAT
PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE HAD SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING ARAB
CHIEFS OF STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN ARAB SUMMIT TO BE
HELD IN ALGIERS BEFORE NOV 15 (PROBABLY NOV 11 OR 12).
YAZID ALLEGED THAT EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS HAD FIRST
SUGGESTED IDEA OF SUMMIT AND BOTH THESE GOVTS AND
THAT OF SAUDI ARABIA AGREED PARTICIPATE. LIBYA ON
BOARD AND IRAQ WILL PARTICIPATE ALTHOUGH BAKR WILL NOT
ATTEND. PLO WILL ALSO ATTEND, REPRESENTED BY 'ARAFAT
AND OTHERS. SUMMIT WILL LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS WITHOUT
ANY OF PUBLICITY ATTENDANT UPON ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED
CONFERENCE.

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2. YAZID SAID THAT ALGERIA ADVISING FEDAYEEN TO BE

REALISTIC, I.E., "WHEN YOU HAVE LOST YOUR BARGAINING POWER, YOU MUST SETTLE FOR WHAT YOU CAN GET". BASED ON OTHER REPORTS, WE BELIEVE ALGERIANS ADVISING PLO TO FOLLOW ALGERIAN PATTERN IN ESTABLISHING ITS STATUS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS, PROBABLY INCLUDING FORMATION OF GOVT IN EXILE. HOWEVER, PLO DECISIONS ON ACTUAL PARTICIPATION IN PEACE TALKS AND ON TERRITORY TO BE CLAIMED FOR INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL THERE IS GREATER CERTAINTY THAT PEACE TALKS WILL BE HELD AND THAT PLO HAS ADEQUATE ARAB SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION. THIS COULD EMERGE FROM ARAB SUMMIT AND MAY WELL BE ONE OF REASONS GOA PRESSING FOR SUMMIT IN ALGIERS.

3. ANOTHER ITEM OF INTEREST (PARTIALLY CONFIRMED BY REPORTS IN OTHER CHANNELS) WAS YAZID'S STATEMENT THAT BOUMEDIENE HAD PROMISED SOVS, DURING HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW, THAT ALGERIA WOULD UNDERWRITE ARMS SUPPLY TO EGYPT AND SYRIA AND IRAQ TO EXTENT OF 400 MILLION DOLLARS.

4. COMMENT: YAZID'S CLAIM OF ALGERIAN SUCCESS IN ARRANGING FOR ARAB SUMMIT WAS MADE PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT RESUMPTION DIPLOMATIC REALTIONS BETWEEN US AND EGYPT. DESPITE HIS CONFIDENT ASSERTIONS, YAZID LEFT IMPRESSION THAT SUMMIT NOT RPT NOT PINNED DOWN AS TIGHTLY AS ALGERIANS WOULD LIKE. HIS STATEMENT THAT IDEA ORIGINATED WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA IS DEFINITELY AT ODDS WITH OTHER REPORTS INDICATING THAT EGYPT PARTICULARLY RESERVED RE SUMMIT. PRO-SAUDI SOURCES ALSO INDICATE COOLNESS TO SUMMIT.
BUFFUM UNQUOTE RUSH

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